

---

FEBRUARY 1, 1825.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House  
to-morrow.

---

## A BILL

*To provide for the building of a new Prison in the city of Wash-  
ington, and for other purposes.*

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2   *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*  
3   the Commissioner of the Public Buildings be, and he is here-  
4   by, authorized and required to cause to be erected and finish-  
5   ed, in a proper manner, near to and north of the present jail,  
6   in the city of Washington, a new prison, and to cause the same  
7   to be inclosed in a secure and convenient walled yard, which  
8   shall extend to and adjoin the yard of the present jail, and  
9   to cause the present jail to be altered and repaired, so  
10   that it may be a comfortable and safe place for the confine-  
11   ment of debtors, and a place for the keeper of the prison to  
12   live in, and for such other purposes as the Commissioners  
13   hereinafterward named shall appoint. The whole work to be  
14   done, as nearly as possible, on the plan which is lodged with the

15 said Commissioner of the Public Buildings, except where  
16 he may find it necessary to alter the same.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That, for the purpose  
2 of finishing the said prison and making the said repairs on  
3 the present jail, there is hereby appropriated the sum of twenty  
4 thousand dollars, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury,  
5 not otherwise appropriated.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, when the said  
2 prison is built, and the said alterations and repairs made on  
3 the present jail, the said prison and jail shall be called the  
4 United States Prison in the District of Columbia; and the  
5 persons confined in the said jail shall be confined in the said  
6 prison; and all persons then confined in the jail at Alexandria  
7 shall be removed to the said prison, except such as are there  
8 confined for debt, or charged with crimes, and not tried; and  
9 thereafter all persons lawfully committed to the custody of  
10 the Marshal in the said District, except such as are committed  
11 for trial in criminal cases for crimes perpetrated in the county  
12 of Alexandria, or for debt in the said county, shall be confined  
13 in the said United States Prison. But nothing herein contained  
14 shall be construed to alter or repeal the laws now in  
15 force relative to granting the benefit of prison bounds, or other  
16 privileges, to persons committed for debt.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That, from and after  
2 the passage of this act, in all cases where, by the laws now in

3 force in the said District, whipping forms the whole or any  
4 part of the punishment inflicted for any crime, those who  
5 may be convicted of such crime, shall be punished by fine not  
6 exceeding two thousand dollars, and imprisonment and con-  
7 finement to hard labor for any time not exceeding ten years.  
8 And in all cases where, by the laws now in force in the said  
9 District, imprisonment forms the whole or part of the punish-  
10 ment for any crime, the court before whom the conviction takes  
11 place, may, in addition to such imprisonment, sentence the  
12 offender to be confined to hard labor; and, in all cases, they  
13 shall have the power to direct what part of the imprisonment  
14 inflicted shall be in solitary confinement.

1        **SEC. 5.** *And be it further enacted,* That the Judges of the  
2 Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Colum-  
3 bia shall, and they are hereby declared to be, ex officio, Com-  
4 missioners of the said United States' prison: that it shall be their  
5 duty, from time to time, to visit the same, to see that the pri-  
6 soners are properly treated, comfortably lodged, and furnished  
7 with wholesome food; and that proper attention is paid to clean-  
8 liness in their rooms and clothing. They shall have power,  
9 also, to direct in what labors convicted offenders, and others  
10 who may by law be directed to labor in the said United  
11 States prison, shall be employed: to prepare and establish in  
12 the said prison a proper system of rules and regulations for  
13 the government thereof; which rules and regulations shall be

14 obligatory on the keeper of the said prison, and. from time to  
15 time, to fix the rate at which the said keeper shall charge for  
16 boarding and other necessities furnished to prisoners in his  
17 custody.

1       SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Com-  
2 missioners shall have power to order every person who may  
3 be confined in the said prison, who is unable to give security  
4 for the payment of his prison fees and expenses, except such  
5 as are confined for debt, or as witnesses in prosecutions at the  
6 instance of the United States, to be employed in such labors  
7 as they may direct, and the proceeds of the labor of each person  
8 so employed shall be appropriated to paying his or her board-  
9 ing, and keeping him or her in comfortable clothing.

1       SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the  
2 duty of the said Commissioners, on the first Monday in Janu-  
3 ary of each year, to make to Congress a detailed report of the  
4 condition of the said prison, showing the number of persons  
5 who have been, during the year, confined, and for what cause,  
6 in what labors they have been employed, what it has cost to  
7 support the prisoners, who, by law, are to be supported at the  
8 expense of the United States, and what has been the produce  
9 of the labors of such persons; and, also, to suggest any alter-  
10 ations they may think necessary in the law relating to crimes  
11 and punishments in the said District.

1        **SEC. 8.** *And be it further enacted,* That the keeper of the  
 3        said prison shall keep an exact account of the materials fur-  
 4        nished, and expenses incurred, in carrying on the labor of the  
 5        persons confined to the said prison, and of the proceeds of  
 6        their labor, and of the proceeds of the labors of all persons  
 7        who are, by law, to be supported at the expense of the United  
 8        States, shall be applied to the support of such persons, and  
 9        the balance, if any, shall be paid into the Treasury of the  
 10        United States.

1        **SEC. 9.** *And be it further enacted,* That the keeper of  
 2        the said prison shall, before he enters on the duties of his  
 3        office, give bond, with security, to be approved by the said  
 4        Commissioners, in such sum as they shall direct, conditioned  
 5        that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office, and truly  
 6        account for all goods and money belonging to the United States  
 7        which may come to his hands: But nothing herein contained  
 8        shall be construed to interfere with, or lessen, the responsibility  
 9        of the Marshal of the District for the acts of the said keeper.

1        **SEC. 10.** *And be it further enacted,* That, from and after  
 2        the passage of this act, no person in the said District shall be  
 3        committed to prison on account of his not being able to find  
 4        security to appear as a witness in any criminal case, unless  
 5        the justice, judge, or court, before whom such commitment is  
 6        required, shall be satisfied that such person intends to leave  
 7        the United States, or designs to absent himself wilfully from  
 8        the trial, and that he can testify to material facts, but the re-

9 cognizance of such person shall be taken without bail. And,  
10 in all cases where a witness is confined in prison to secure his  
11 attendance he shall be allowed his fees as a witness, not only  
12 for the number of days he appears in court, but for all the  
13 time he has been confined in prison.

1        **SEC. 11.** *And be it further enacted,* That, whenever the  
2 said Circuit shall deem it for the interest of the United States  
3 they shall order a special session of the said court, to be held  
4 by any one of the Judges thereof, for the trial of all criminal  
5 offences, except such as are punished with death, and the said  
6 Court, at such special session, shall possess all the powers  
7 and authorities in criminal matters, except as is hereinbefore  
8 excepted, that the said Circuit Court itself possesses.

1        **SEC. 12.** *And be it further enacted,* That, from and after  
2 the passage of this act, no colored person, committed to prison  
3 in the said District for any cause, shall be sold into slavery to  
4 raise money to pay his prison fees and expenses, but where  
5 such colored person is free, and cannot pay or secure the pay-  
6 ment of such fees and expenses, he may be bound, by inden-  
7 ture, by the authority of the said Commissioners, for any term  
8 not exceeding four years, to any person living in the said Dis-  
9 trict, who will agree to pay or secure the payment of the said  
10 fees and expenses. The said indenture shall be recorded in the  
11 Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the United States in

12 the county of Washington, and shall be wholly void if the  
13 person to whom such colored person is bound shall remove him  
14 or her out of the said District, or shall transfer such inden-  
15 ture to any person not residing in the said District.